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FROM JUNE 1, COUGH SYRUPS CAN'T BE EXPORTED WITHOUT QUALITY CHECKS

The move came after three alerts were issued by the World Health Organization in seven months on contaminated India-made cough syrups

TESTING ONLY AT SPECIFIED GOVERNMENT LABS

The specified Central government labs include Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, regional drug testing lab (RDTL - Chandigarh), Central drugs lab (CDL - Kolkata), Central drug testing lab (CDTL - Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai), RDTL (Guwahati), and National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)-accredited testing labs of state govts | P9

CONTAMINATED DRUGS DENTED INDIA'S IMAGE

"Any cough syrup exported from India must meet minimum benchmark requirement of quality standards... they will be exported after being tested," Director General Foreign Trade Santosh Kumar Sarangi said
■ The pre-quality checks come in the wake of back-to-back WHO alerts on spurious cough syrups denting India's image as 'pharmacy of the world'

\$17.6 billion

ESTIMATED VALUE OF COUGH SYRUPS EXPORTED FROM INDIA IN 2022-23



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese at an Indian diaspora event in Sydney on Tuesday | P8

Govt: Won't allow moral policing, saffronisation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday pulled up high-ranking police officers for their style of functioning under the previous BJP government and asked them to work impartially.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that his government will put an end to moral policing in the state. When reporters drew his attention to increasing incidents of moral policing in the coastal region, the CM said, "No moral policing henceforth. We will put an end to it."

At a meeting with top police officers, Shivakumar warned them that his government will not let the officers "saffronise" the force.

The DyCM is said to have expressed displeasure at them for not booking a case against those who had allegedly stated that "Siddaramaiah should be finished like how Tipu Sultan was killed."

At the closed-door meeting, which was attended by in-charge DG & IGP Alok Mohan and several officers, Shivakumar reportedly took strong objection to some policemen donning saffron attire in Mangaluru, Vijayapura and Bagalkot during celebration of a festival under the BJP regime.

Shivakumar warned the officers that they should not allow such activities in the department.

CONTINUED ON: P4



Slow start to note exchange

No panic rush to dispose of ₹2,000 notes; complaints of banks demanding ID proof

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE first day of exchanging ₹2,000 currency notes passed off largely peacefully as it was business as usual in most banks and there were no large crowds as seen in the aftermath of the 2016 demonetisation.

Note exchange was a low-key affair in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha and Telangana, where people chose not to rush to banks to replace ₹2,000 notes with lower denomination notes. In Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad and Vijayawada, residents tried to dispose of the pink notes at petrol pumps, supermarkets and other business establishments.

While no major untoward incident was reported from any state, Delhi, Chennai and Bhubaneswar reported isolated incidents of confusion and chaos in some bank branches.

At some banks in Delhi, heated arguments took place between customers and bank staff who allegedly refused to accept notes without identity proof despite the government's



A girl with a ₹2,000 note at a bank in Bengaluru on Tuesday | VMOD KUMAR T

clarification that no document is required to exchange notes.

Some Chennai banks also demanded Aadhaar card while others wanted to know the mobile numbers of those who came with ₹2,000 notes. The city also recorded high activity with some bank branches collecting ₹2,000 notes worth over ₹60 lakh on Tuesday.

A few Bhubaneswar banks, too, insisted on identity documents such as Aadhaar card along with the requisition slip to deposit and exchange notes.

There were widespread complaints of petrol pumps refusing to accept high-value notes.

CONTINUED ON: P5

MODI ROCKS SYDNEY

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday got a roaring reception from the Indian diaspora in Sydney at the Qudos Bank Arena, with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese observing that the welcome was way bigger than that for even American rock star Bruce Springsteen who performed at the same venue in 2017. Albanese called Modi "the boss", a sobriquet coined by fans to honour the 73-year-old Springsteen.

In his address, Modi said the strongest foundations of India-Australia relations are mutual trust and respect, adding the real reason behind this is the Indian diaspora. "We hope the bilateral trade between the two sides will more than double in the next five years" after the inking of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement last year, he said.

Both PMs unveiled the foundation stone for a 'Little India' Gateway to

'World's biggest, youngest talent factory is India'

"India does not lack capability or resources. India has made record exports even in the most challenging times. Today, the country which has the world's biggest and youngest talent factory is... India," he asserted amid chants of 'Modi, Modi'

be built at Harris Park in Parramatta, Western Sydney, which is home to a large Indian community.

Besides, a new Indian Consulate will be opened in Brisbane, Modi announced. India has a High Commission in Canberra and consulates in Melbourne and Perth.

"Our cricket relations completed 75 years. Last year when Shane Warne passed away millions of Indians mourned the loss. Our lifestyles

may differ, but Yoga now connects us. We have been friends for a long time because of cricket. Tennis and films are now connecting us. We may prepare food in different ways, but Masterchef has brought us together," Modi remarked.

Modi had an array of meetings during the day, including one with leading Australian industrialist Dr Andrew Forrest, Executive Chairman and Founder of Fortescue Metals Group. The group has plans to work with Indian companies in the field of green hydrogen.

India is Australia's sixth-largest trading partner. The two-way exchange of goods and services was valued at Australian \$46.5 billion, up from \$31 billion last year.

A new Centre for Australia-India relations is expected to build business engagement, promote policy dialogue, deepen cultural understanding and harness the energy and talent of the Indian diaspora.

Delhi Univ grad Ishita tops civil services exam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

WOMEN secured top positions in the prestigious Civil Services 2022 exam, results for which were announced by the Union Public Service Commission on Tuesday. Delhi University graduate Ishita Kishore secured the first spot. She was followed by Garima Lohia, Uma Harathi N, and Smriti Mishra, who secured the second, third, and fourth ranks, respectively. Lohia and Mishra are also Delhi University graduates, while Harathi N is a B Tech degree holder from IIT-Hyderabad.

This is the second consecutive year women candidates have dominated the civil service exams. Last year, Shruti Sharma secured All India Rank 1. All the top three positions then, too, were secured by women. In all, 933 — 613 men and 320 women — qualified for the 2022 exams. On the top 25 list are 14 women and 11 men. Ishita tweeted: "The best moment of my life. This is a big achievement for me and my family." She credited her parents for her success. "I was confident about qualifying for the UPSC exam but topping the merit list was a surprise," she said.

MYSURU LAD SHINES | P3

Rain deaths: Siddu warns DCs, CEOs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said 52 people died in rain-related incidents in the last two-and-a-half months in Karnataka.

The CM held a meeting with officials of the Agriculture Department and Disaster Management Authority here. Deputy commissioners and chief executive officers of zilla panchayats participated in the meeting through video conference.

Siddaramaiah instructed the DCs and CEOs to respond to the people's problems without any delay during monsoon.

Fifty-two deaths have been reported across the state since March. Of them, 34 due to lightning, three because of treefall, seven in wall collapse, five in flash floods and three due to electrocution. Besides, 338 cattle died, 814 houses were damaged and standing crops on 20,000 hectares destroyed.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Siddaramaiah said the state experienced 10% above normal pre-monsoon showers so far this year. "Step out of your offices and respond to people's problems. If you do not work effectively, face action. This is not just an instruction, but a warning. Many deputy commissioners



CM Siddaramaiah and DyCM DK Shivakumar at a meeting in Bengaluru on Tuesday

Step out of your offices and respond to people's problems. If you do not work effectively, face action. This is not just an instruction, but a warning

Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

have not visited taluk centres in their respective districts. This should not happen henceforth," he said.

He directed the officials not to delay in giving compensation to rain and flood victims. The state has Rs 540 crore to be offered as compensation to the affected people, he said.

Stating that monsoon is fast approaching, Siddaramaiah said with many parts of the state receiving good pre-monsoon showers, farmers have started sowing.

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Metro waiting time to come down to 3-3.5 mins

Bengaluru: Passengers waiting time on Metro's Purple Line and Green Line will be reduced when the much-delayed supply of 36 new train sets arrive in phases. This will help in a 3-minute gap between trains on the Purple Line and 3.5 minutes on the Green Line, a source said. P2

'States must have policies to promote film tourism'

Srinagar: Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday said states and Union Territories need to have formal policies for promotion of film tourism. Reddy was addressing a side event on "Promoting Incredible India through Film Tourism" during the G20 Tourism Working Group meet.

Former Pakistan minister Qureshi arrested again

Islamabad: Shah Mahmood Qureshi, ex-foreign minister and vice-chairman of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, was arrested again on Tuesday, moments after being released from a prison in Rawalpindi on the orders of a top court. Qureshi, 66, was foreign affairs minister during 2018-22.

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